

DPD 2428-61  
19 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

SUBJECT : Present Status and Proposed Program for the  
Rehabilitation of the IDEALIST Elint Capability

REFERENCE : National Security Agency Letter, PROD-04/300/  
T/61, dated 3 April 1961

1. The present capability for electronic reconnaissance in the IDEALIST program is below the minimum necessary to fulfill our obligations and operational requirements in this field. The principle causes are shortage of equipment, incomplete maintenance, insufficient technical personnel, and inadequate operating funds.

2. Improper and unsatisfactory operation of System III equipment is outlined in the reference. System VI troubles have been repeatedly discussed in project correspondence. Inadequacies of the installation in the article are known and a project is underway to overcome them. Equipment lost due to crashes and other unfortunate incidents was not subsequently replaced which reduced the quantity of System VI from five to less than three. A replacement program has been initiated.

3. The maintenance of the equipment has suffered due to the drastic reduction in technical personnel assigned to the project, (as shown on Annex B), to the numerous recent stagings, to the use of communications personnel on unrelated programs, and to reduction of maintenance, overhaul, and IRAN by the contractor because funds to support the program for the second half of FY 1961 were not provided.

4. The number of technical personnel in the detachments is not sufficient to support an active staging program. The detachment table of organization was established based upon maintaining a capability with only an occasional staging operation. Annex B shows the distribution of technical people in the detachments for the years 1958 to the present. It should be noted that our tech-

nical complement for the project has been reduced from a total of 23 to only 8 people. The operational detachments have been reduced from between 7 and 13 people per unit to only 4 per unit. With the almost continued stagings being conducted from Detachment "G", it is impossible to maintain an operational capability.

5. Funding for this program is not sufficient to support a full operational capability. Annex A outlines the expenditures for the period FY 1958 to FY 1961. The reason for the big drop in FY 1961 is that funds for the second half of the fiscal year were not approved in the activities program submitted in February. In an attempt to stretch the contractor's funds until additional money could be provided, it was necessary to retrench expenditures and to hold up on the overhaul, IRAN, and maintenance of systems III and VI equipment. As of 14 April the contractor, [REDACTED] is out of funds and further work will be suspended until an assurance can be given the contractor that he will be reimbursed.

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6. The above outlines the present status and gives the reasons therefore. In order to return the Elint capability of the project to its original level the following program is recommended:

A. Procure sufficient equipment to replace that which was lost due to crashes and other unfortunate incidents.

B. Complete the program to re-engineer the installation of the Elint systems in the articles to reduce noise, increase installation flexibility and improve performance.

C. Bring the technical personnel complement up to a level that will support operations.

D. Fund for the remaining last half of FY 1961 to include catching up on the backlog of equipment awaiting repair and overhaul.

7. Under paragraph 6A above, a request has been initiated for the major components necessary to bring the level of System VI units back to the original five complete sets from the two and three quarters sets presently available. This is estimated to cost [REDACTED] 25X1A1a

8. The installation engineering program was approved on 28 December 1960 and is in process. Further work has been suspended pending funding for the last half of FY 1961 to [REDACTED]

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9. The minimum level of technical personnel required to support a detachment that goes on frequent stagings is two engineers and seven technicians. Where the operations are run from the detachment instead of staging bases, only one engineer and four technicians could adequately handle the technical end. Thus the total personnel requirements are for 3 engineers and 11 technicians for a total of 14 people.

10. Contractor funding required for the balance of FY 1961 can be broken down as follows:

- A. Backlog of items for repair and overhaul presently at contractor's plant, includes System III, VI and recorders
- B. Projected repair to 31 June
- C. Sustaining technical services, tech rep aid, engineering changes, crash repairs programs

25X1A1a

11. In addition to the above, funding in the amount is needed to complete the systems installation program

25X1A1a Total contractor funding needed

12. The cost of replacing the lost equipment was calculated to be about [REDACTED] This brings the total cost of the entire proposed program to [REDACTED]

25X1A1a

13. Inasmuch as the contractor is now out of funds and has requested guidance as to whether or not he should stop work, your early consideration of the above outlined program is earnestly requested.

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Deputy Chief, Communications Staff  
DPD-DD/P

*Note: We have just rec'd information that the activity program for the procurement of lost equipment has been approved, therefore the additional funding required is now only [REDACTED]*

25X1A1a

only [REDACTED] Appr [REDACTED] ~~SECRET~~ CIA-RDP33-02415A000400310002-0

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/Commo